

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
IO-14 /086 W
-----073725 010845Z /11

R 311848Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7228
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05868

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, UR, GW, GE
SUBJECT: CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT ON BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN;
SCHMIDT VISIT TO EAST BERLIN

REF: (A) MOSCOW 5563 (NOTAL)
(B) BONN 4556

THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE INTERVIEW WITH
CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT PUBLISHED IN THE MARCH 24TH EDITION
OF THE WEST GERMAN MAGAZINE "QUICK."

BEGIN TEXT:
QUICK: WHEN IS MR. BREZHNEV COMING TO BONN? AND WHAT
DOES THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
LOOK FOR IN THIS VISIT?

CHANCELLOR: AS YOU KNOW, AN ALREADY-PLANNED VISIT WAS
POSTPONED BY THE SOVIET SECRETARY-GENERAL'S SIDE ON
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GROUND OF HEALTH. A NEW DATE DEPENDS ONLY ON THAT
QUESTION. I CONSIDER THE VISIT URGENTLY DESIRABLE,
BECAUSE THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS TO TAKE PLACE ON THAT
OCCASION SEEMS TO ME TO PROMISE TO CONTRIBUTE TO STABI-
LIZING OUR DETENTE POLICY.

QUICK: THEN THERE IS ANOTHER VISIT PENDING:

CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT WITH SED SECRETARY-GENERAL HONECKER.
IS IT TRUE THAT NOW AND THEN YOU TELEPHONE HIM?

CHANCELLOR: IT IS TRUE THAT WE HAVE NOW AND THEN SPOKEN
BY TELEPHONE; BUT I HAVE NOT SPOKEN AS OFTEN WITH
HONECKER AS WITH GISCARD D'ESTAING, WITH JIMMY CARTER OR
WITH JIM CALLAGHAN. IT WILL SURELY BE THE SAME WAY IN
THE FUTURE. THE LAST TIME WE TALKED BY TELEPHONE WAS
IN JANUARY--WHEN I WAS DISTURBED BY THE GDR LEADERSHIP'S
REACTION, TOO NERVOUS AND NOT THOUGHT OUT TO ITS CON-
CLUSION, TO THE PUBLICATION OF THE SO-CALLED MANIFESTO
IN "SPIEGEL. AT THAT TIME THE "SPIEGEL" BUREAU IN EAST
BERLIN WAS CLOSED. AND THEY REFUSED DR. KOHL, THE
OPPOSITION LEADER, ACCESS TO EAST BERLIN, ALTHOUGH HE
SURELY IN NO WAY HAD CHALLENGED THE GDR. THE RESULT OF
MY TALK WITH HONECKER WAS THAT MINISTER OF STATE
WISCHNEWSKI WENT OVER THERE TO TALK WITH THE GDR ABOUT
THIS MATTER IN DETAIL.

QUICK: IF IT COMES TO A SCHMIDT-HONECKER VISIT, WHO
WILL BE VISITING WHOM?

CHANCELLOR: NOW, YOU KNOW, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY IS MORE THAN THREE TIMES AS BIG AS THE GDR;
WE ARE ECONOMICALLY STRONGER; WE ARE STRONGER IN FOREIGN
RELATIONS; WE ARE MUCH MORE SURE OF OURSELVES; WE SIMPLY
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ABSORB, DAY AFTER DAY, A LOT OF CRITICISM OF OUR GOVERN-

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MENO, OUR STATE, THIS OR THAT GOVERNMENTAL ESTABLISH-
MENT, OR OUR SOCIETY. WE CAN AFFORD TO BE SELF-CON-
FIDENT. IT WON'T BREAK OUR NECKS IF, LET US SAY, PTHE
HEAD OF THE GERMAN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TELEPHONES THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE IN EAST BERLIN, OR
PERHAPS VISITS HIM. ABOUT A VISIT, LET ME ADD, HOW-
EVER: VISITS REQUIRE RETURN VISITS. THERE IS NO POINT
IN MAKING A VISIT IN AN ATMOSPHERE CHARACTERIZED BY
SUCH NERVOUS REACTIONS AS THE ONES I HAVE MENTIONED.
STATESMEN'S VISITS TO EACH OTHER ARE SUPPOSED TO GET
SOMEWHERE.

QUICK: GIVEN THOSE CONDITIONS, WOULD YOU, IF THE
OCCASION ARISES, INVITE MR. HONECKER TO BONN?

CHANCELLOR: I AM QUITE READY TO VISIT HIM FIRST. ON
THAT I'M NOT TOUCHY. AS WE JUST SAID: THIS IS A
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RELATIVELY LARGE AND SELF-CONFIDENT STATE. WE HAVE
NOTHING TO GSE.

QUICK: IS THERE ALREADY A DATE FOR THE VISIT?

CHANCELLOR: NO.
END TEXT
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